

B. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION PERIODS

This section contains information about certification periods for:

Cash Assistance Clients

Categorically needy (CN) medical

Medically Needy (MN) non-institutionalized persons

Medically Indigent

Medicare Cost Savings

Cash Assistance Clients

Effective September 12, 2002

WAC 388-416-0010 Medical certification periods for recipients of cash assistance programs.

- (1) The certification period for medical services begins on the first day of the month of application when the client is determined eligible for cash assistance for one of the following programs:
 - (a) Temporary assistance for needy families (TANF);
 - (b) Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or
 - (c) Refugee assistance.
- (2) The certification period for the medical programs associated with the cash programs in subsection (1) of this section continues as long as eligibility for these programs lasts. When a client's cash assistance is terminated, eligibility for medical assistance is continued until eligibility is redetermined as described in WAC 388-418-0025.
- (3) The certification period for medical can begin up to three months prior to the month of application for clients described in subsection (1) of this section if the conditions in WAC 388-416-0015(6) apply.

- (4) The certification period for medical care services begins on the date eligibility begins for the following cash assistance programs:
 - (a) General assistance for unemployable persons (GA-U); or
 - (b) Alcohol and drug abuse treatment and support act (ADATSA) programs, when the client is either receiving a grant or waiting for treatment to begin.
- (5) The certification period for medical care services for clients in subsection (4) of this section runs concurrently with the period of eligibility for the client's cash assistance program.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

When a client, applying for TANF or Refugee Assistance is not eligible until the following month but meets CN medical eligibility in the month of application, CN medical is authorized beginning the first day of the month of application.

See **CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY** and **INCAPACITY**

Categorically Needy (CN) Medical Programs**WAC 388-416-0015 Certification periods for categorically needy (CN) medical and children's health insurance program (CHIP).**

- (1) A certification period is the period of time a person is determined eligible for a categorically needy (CN) medical program. Unless otherwise stated in this section, the certification period begins on the first day of the month of application and continues to the last day of the last month of the certification period.
- (2) For a child eligible for the newborn medical program, the certification period begins on the child's date of birth and continues through the end of the month of the child's first birthday.
- (3) For a woman eligible for a medical program based on pregnancy, the certification period ends the last day of the month that includes the sixtieth day from the day the pregnancy ends.
- (4) For families, children, and SSI-related persons, the certification period is twelve months. When the medical assistance unit is also receiving benefits under a cash or food assistance program, the medical certification period is updated to begin anew at each:
 - (a) Approved application for cash or food assistance; or
 - (b) Completed eligibility review.
- (5) When the child turns nineteen the certification period ends even if the twelve-month period is not over. The certification period may be extended past the end of the month the child turns nineteen when:
 - (a) The child is receiving inpatient services on the last day of the month the child turns nineteen;
 - (b) The inpatient stay continues into the following month or months; and
 - (c) The child remains eligible except for exceeding age nineteen.

- (6) A retroactive certification period can begin up to three months immediately before the month of application when:
 - (a) The client would have been eligible for medical assistance, if the client had applied;
 - (b) The client received covered medical services, as described in WAC 388-529-010.
- (7) If the client is eligible only during the three-month retroactive period, that period is the only period of certification.
- (8) Any months of a retroactive certification period are added to the designated certification periods described in this section.
- (9) For a child determined eligible for CHIP medical benefits as described in chapter 388-542 WAC:
 - (a) The certification periods are described in subsections (1), (4), and (5) of this section.
 - (b) There is not a retroactive eligibility period as described in subsections (6), (7), and (8); and
 - (c) For a child who has creditable coverage at the time of application, the certification period begins on the first of the month after the child's creditable coverage is no longer in effect, if:
 - (i) All other CHIP eligibility factors are met; and
 - (ii) An eligibility decision is made per WAC 388-406-0035.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

See **MEDICAL EXTENSION** for the certification periods for TANF/SFA related medical extensions. See **PREGNANCY** for the postpartum and family planning extensions.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Eligibility must be determined separately for any retroactive CN certification periods. It is possible for a client to be ineligible in the month of application, but eligible within the previous three months.
2. When a pregnant women is ineligible in the application month for factors other than medical need, but met eligibility in one of the three previous months, authorize from that period through the postpartum period.

EXAMPLE

Pregnant woman applies in March, but her countable income exceeds the standard. Her countable income in January was below the standard. Since she was also pregnant in January, one of the previous three months, she is eligible from January 1 through the entire pregnancy and the postpartum extension. The certification period is for that entire period.

Medically Needy (MN) Program (Non -Institutionalized)**WAC 388-416-0020 Certification periods for noninstitutionalized medically needy (MN) program.**

- (1) The certification period for the noninstitutionalized medically needy (MN) program begins:
 - (a) On the first day of the month in which hospital expenses equal the spenddown amount; or
 - (b) On the day that spenddown is met, when hospital expenses are less than the spenddown amount or no hospital expenses are involved.
- (2) The certification period continues through the last day of the final month of the base period as described in chapter 388-519 WAC.
- (3) The certification period can begin up to three months immediately prior to the month of application as described in chapter 388-519 WAC.
- (4) The certification period for MN clients with income below the medically needy income level (MNIL) is twelve months.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

The base period begins with the month of application and is usually three or six months, depending upon the client's choice. See **SPENDDDOWN**

Medically Indigent (MI) Program**WAC 388-416-0030 Certification periods for the medically indigent (MI) program.**

- (1) A client must meet the emergency medical expense requirement (EMER), before eligibility can be determined for the medically indigent (MI) program.
- (2) If the client is not required to spenddown excess income or resources, the certification period for MI begins on the date that the EMER was met.
- (3) When an MI applicant must satisfy a spenddown amount, the certification period begins:
 - (a) On the first day of the month in which hospital expenses (excluding the EMER) equal the spenddown amount; or
 - (b) On the day that spenddown is met, when hospital expenses are less than the spenddown amount.
- (4) The certification period cannot exceed three calendar months in a twelve month period.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

See **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE** and **SPENDDOWN**

Medicare Cost Savings Programs**WAC 388-416-0035 Certification periods for Medicare cost sharing programs.**

- (1) The certification period for the qualified Medicare beneficiary (QMB) program:
 - (a) Is for twelve months; and
 - (b) Begins the first day of the month following the month of QMB eligibility determination; and
- (2) The certification period for the qualified disabled working individual (QDWI) program:
 - (a) Is twelve months; and
 - (b) May begin up to three months prior to the month of application if on the first day of the first month of the certification period the person:
 - (i) Is or had been enrolled in Medicare Part A; and
 - (ii) Meets or has met the department's eligibility requirements for QDWI.
- (3) The certification period for the:
 - (a) Special low income medicare beneficiary (SLMB) program is twelve months in duration;
 - (b) Expanded special low income medicare beneficiary (ESLMB) program extends to the end of the calendar year.
- (4) The certification periods for SLMB and ESLMB may begin up to three months prior to the month of application if on the first day of the first month of the certification period the person:
 - (a) Is or has been enrolled in Medicare Part B; and
 - (b) Meets or has met the department's eligibility requirements for SLMB or

ESLMB.

- (5) The certification period for SLMB coverage is twelve months in duration.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

See **APPLICATIONS** for the processing time requirements.